



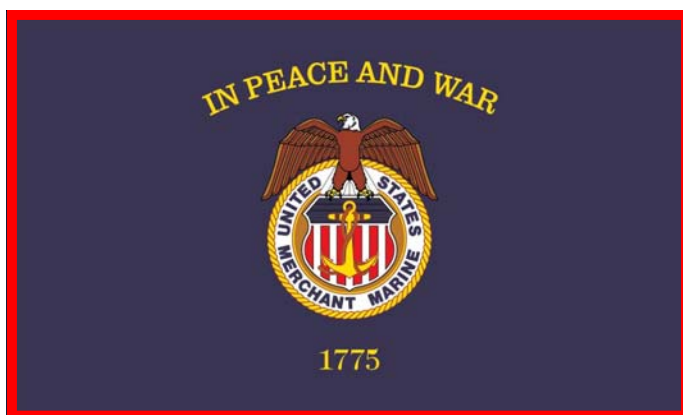
MARAD Update



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National Maritime Day Observance to Honor Creators of Merchant Marine Flag and Seal



The meaning of the U.S. Merchant Marine flag, as well as the story of its creation, will be told at MARAD's National Maritime Day observance in Washington, DC, on May 19

The Maritime Administration's ceremony observing National Maritime Day will be held on May 19, at 10:30 a.m., in the auditorium of the U.S. Navy Memorial and Naval Heritage Center at 701 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, in Washington, DC. Acting Maritime Administrator John Jamian will be the Master of Ceremonies. Original music has been written for this ceremony and will be performed, along with other selections, by the Mariners Chorus from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, New York. The color guard will be provided by the State University of New York Maritime College in Fort Schuyler, New York.

This year, the ceremony also will honor the creators of the U.S. Merchant Marine flag and seal, the late Walter Oates of MARAD and Captain George Bark, a World War II Merchant Marine veteran. An accompanying video will tell the story of the design, and also the story behind the choice of the date 1775 as the beginning of the U.S. Merchant Marine: a skirmish at Round Island, in Machias, Maine.

On Monday, May 23, National Maritime Day observances will be held in New York City. National Maritime Day is May 22, and it falls this year on Sunday.

For further information about National Maritime Day 2005 observances and activities throughout the country, please contact MARAD's Office of Congressional and Public Affairs at (202) 366-5807.

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From MARAD's North Atlantic Region—

Largest Anti-Terrorism Exercise Ever Held in the United States

By Bill McDonald

Top Officials 3 (TOPOFF 3), the third in a series of exercises intended to strengthen the nation's capacity to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from large-scale terrorist attacks, was held in the North Atlantic Region from April 4 to 8. This \$16 million, week-long, full-scale, anti-terrorism exercise simulated a series of terrorist attacks employing weapons of mass destruction, beginning in Connecticut and New Jersey, and leading to a coordinated national and international response.

The North Atlantic Region Office participated in the exercise, which was designed to gauge how quickly and effectively emergency personnel can respond to attacks employing chemical and biological weapons of mass destruction. Region Office participation included preparation and communication of reports to MARAD Headquarters on exercise events, participation in briefings and discussions on real-world as well as simulated TOPOFF 3 developments, and field inspection tours of medical response operations at the Rutgers University campus and the Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick, New Jersey.

In Connecticut, federal officials staged a simulated chemical weapons explosion in the Port of New London. The New Jersey mock attack involved the dispersal of simulated biological agents.

Emergency responders conducted search and rescue operations, and hospitals simulated care to attack victims to enable experts to analyze the public health system's capacity to deal with this type of emergency. Mock media coverage of the exercise prepared key decision makers to face the challenges of real world media communications in the event of an actual attack.

More than 10,000 participants representing more than 200 federal, state, and local government agencies, the private sector, and volunteer groups took part, together with senior security representatives from England and Canada.

AAPA Names Secretary Mineta as 2005 "Port Person of the Year"



Secretary Mineta receiving the 2005 Port Person of the Year award from AAPA Chairman of the Board Gary LaGrange of the Port of New Orleans

The American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA), the organization representing public ports throughout the Western Hemisphere, selected U.S. Secretary of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta as its Port Person of the Year. This is AAPA's most prestigious annual award honoring an individual whose outstanding work or service has made a significant contribution to public port authorities and/or maritime commerce.

Secretary Mineta received the award and served as a luncheon keynote speaker during the Association's annual spring conference that was held in Washington, DC.

Upcoming Events

National Maritime Day Observance

U.S. Navy Memorial

Washington, DC

10:30 A.M.

May 19, 2005

Contact: MARAD Office of Congressional and Public Affairs at (202) 366-5807

National Maritime Day

May 22, 2005

If you know of an upcoming event you would like published in the *MARAD Update*, please submit it to Ella Thomas at ella.thomas@marad.dot.gov.

MARAD Artifacts Shine on Kennedy Center Stage

By Susan Clark



The set of Mr. Roberts at the Kennedy Center's Eisenhower Theater, featuring many artifacts from MARAD

"Neil, we have hit the mother lode!" said Kennedy Center prop man Larry Barrett as he walked into the MARAD warehouse in Chesapeake, Virginia. He and production manager Neil Fleitell had traveled to Chesapeake in search of nautical props and scenery for the Kennedy Center's production of *Mr. Roberts*, which is set on board a Navy ship during World War II.

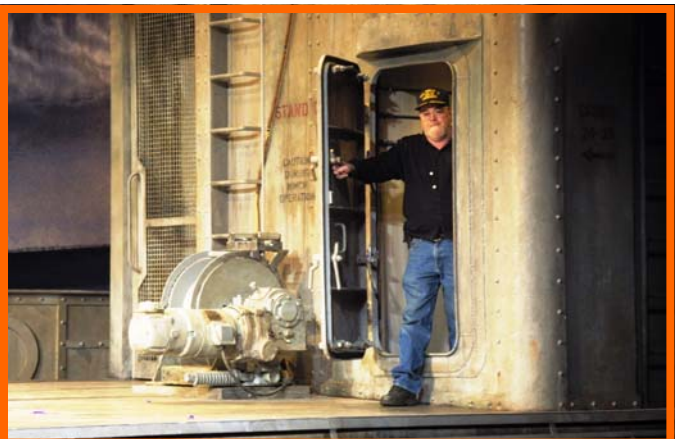
MARAD supplied the 1500-pound winch, which was actually used during the production to move prop cargo. "Funny thing is," says Fleitell, "I asked Don Powell to show me the SMALLEST winch. That warehouse is amazing!"

Powell, who runs the South Atlantic Region Shore-based Spares Warehouse, said the Kennedy Center crew borrowed not only the winch, but also superstructure including a bulkhead door, as well as cargo blocks, binoculars, pilot's ladders, a ship's bell, and an

Engine Order Telegraph, which, he said, "They shined up real well." Powell also said that when the items were returned, the Kennedy Center crew accounted for every item they borrowed, which he appreciated.

In expressing his thanks, Fleitell wrote, "I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you and a job well done to all of you at the Maritime Administration for your invaluable assistance. We could not have done it without you!"

Production carpenter Jerry Ryan enters the stage through an actual bulkhead door from MARAD's warehouse in Chesapeake, Virginia



**A kingdom, that has a large import and export,
must abound more with industry, and that employed
upon delicacies and luxuries, than a kingdom that rests
contented with its native commodities. It is, therefore,
more powerful as well as richer and happier.**

David Hume, *Essay of Commerce*, 1752



Bob Ostrom Departs MARAD

Acting Maritime Administrator John Jamian presenting Bob Ostrom at his going-away luncheon with a full United States Maritime Service (USMS) Rear Admiral Two-Star Commission, recognizing his service as the "Judge Advocate General" or JAG for the United States Merchant Marine Academy. As the USMS is focused on maritime education and training, Bob's outstanding work and legal leadership with the Academy entitled him to the rank.

On March 17, U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta announced the resignation of Robert B. Ostrom, Chief Counsel for the U.S. Maritime Administration. The Secretary recognized Ostrom for his outstanding service as Chief Counsel and specifically for his numerous legal successes during his tenure.

"Bob Ostrom has been an outstanding counsel for the U.S. Maritime Administration and an outstanding member of our legal team here at the U.S. Department of Transportation," Secretary Mineta said. "During his tenure Bob provided strong leadership and oversight on numerous high-profile cases that were successfully litigated under his watch. His legal counsel at the Maritime Administration and Department of Transportation will be greatly missed, but we are grateful for his dedicated years of service to this Department and our country."

MARAD Update

The ***MARAD Update*** is published by the Maritime Administration's Office of Congressional and Public Affairs. This publication is available to all individuals regardless of age, race, religion, color, sex, national origin, disability, or sexual orientation. For more information or to submit questions or concerns, telephone (202) 366-5807, visit the MARAD website at www.marad.dot.gov, or e-mail pao.marad@marad.dot.gov.

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